

The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method of manufacturing a board, the method comprising:

- providing upper and lower sheets of material;
- inserting the upper and lower sheets of material into an interior of a first mold cavity;
- clamping perimeters of the upper and lower sheets of material;
- forming the upper and lower sheets of material to the interior of the first mold cavity following clamping of the perimeters of the upper and lower sheets of material to form a shell having a single hollow interior;
- filling the entire shell with an expandable material; and
- preventing the shell from substantially deforming during filling with the expandable material by inserting the shell into a second mold cavity having a shape substantially conforming to the shell, the second mold cavity being different from the first mold cavity.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of inserting the upper and lower into an interior of a first mold cavity includes:

- positioning the upper sheet of material above the lower sheet of material; and
- clamping a perimeter of the upper sheet of material and a perimeter of the lower sheet of material.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 2, including the step of providing a gasket between the perimeter of the upper sheet and the perimeter of the lower sheet.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 2, including the step of spacing at least a portion of the upper and lower sheets of material apart.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 4, including the step of blowing fluid between the upper and lower sheets of material for spacing at least a portion of the upper and lower sheets of material apart.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 5, wherein the step of blowing fluid between the upper and lower sheets of material for spacing at least a portion of the upper and lower sheets of material apart includes passing a fluid inlet tube through a gasket.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of forming the upper and lower sheets of material to the interior of the mold cavity to form a shell includes:

heating the upper and lower sheets of material; and

forcing the upper and lower sheets of material against interior walls of the mold cavity.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 7, wherein the step of forcing the upper and lower sheets of material against interior walls of the mold cavity includes at least one of drawing the upper and lower sheets of material against the interior walls with a vacuum and forcing the upper and lower sheets of material against the interior walls with a pressure force between the sheets.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 1, including the step of trimming excess portions of the first and second sheets of material after forming the shell.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of filling the shell with the expandable material comprises the steps of:

- forming an aperture in the shell;
- inserting a filling device through the aperture; and
- passing the expandable material through the filling device and into the shell.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 10, wherein the expandable material is at least one of polyurethane and polystyrene.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 11, including the step of withdrawing the filling device from within the shell while the shell is being filled with the expandable material.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 10, including the step of heating the mold cavity to allow the expandable material to at least partially bond to the shell.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 1, including the step of applying graphics to at least one of first and second sheets of material prior to the step of inserting the upper and lower sheets of material into an interior of a mold cavity.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 1, wherein the first and second sheets of material comprise at least one of polycarbonate, ABS and TPO.

Claims 17-22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A method of manufacturing a board, the method comprising:

- providing upper and lower sheets of material;

- inserting the upper and lower sheets of material into an interior of a first mold cavity, including positioning the upper sheet of material above the lower sheet of material, providing a gasket between the perimeter of the upper sheet and the perimeter of the lower sheet, and clamping a perimeter of the upper sheet of material and a perimeter of the lower sheet of material;

- forming the upper and lower sheets of material to the interior of the first mold cavity to form a shell having a single hollow interior;

- filling the entire shell with an expandable material; and

- preventing the shell from substantially deforming during filling with the expandable material by inserting the shell into a second mold cavity having a shape substantially conforming to the shell, the second mold cavity being different from the first mold cavity.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A method of manufacturing a board, the method comprising:

- providing upper and lower sheets of material;

- inserting the upper and lower sheets of material into an interior of a first mold cavity, including positioning the upper sheet of material above the lower sheet of material and clamping a perimeter of the upper sheet of material and a perimeter of the lower sheet of material;

- spacing at least a portion of the upper and lower sheets of material apart by blowing fluid between the upper and lower sheets of material and passing a fluid inlet tube through a gasket;

- forming the upper and lower sheets of material to the interior of the first mold cavity to form a shell having a single hollow interior;

- filling the entire shell with an expandable material; and

Application No. 10/781,320
Amendment dated November 16, 2006
Reply to the Office action of August 16, 2006

preventing the shell from substantially deforming during filling with the expandable material by inserting the shell into a second mold cavity having a shape substantially conforming to the shell, the second mold cavity being different from the first mold cavity.